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**Cooperative Extension Work in Agriculture
and Home Economics.**

**U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AND STATE AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES
COOPERATING.**

**STATES RELATIONS SERVICE,
OFFICE OF EXTENSION WORK, SOUTH.
FARMERS' COOPERATIVE DEMONSTRATION WORK.
Washington, D. C.**

TO FARMERS, BANKERS AND BUSINESS MEN IN THE SOUTH.

S A F E T Y .

For nearly three years I have done my best to warn you to prepare for the present emergency. For years we have tried to encourage diversification in the South as a basis for greater safety, both agricultural and economic. Since the war began in Europe we have urged **SAFE FARMING**. When prices were low you did well and made great progress. When cotton went to eighteen cents and over you made large profits because of your progress in **SAFE FARMING**, but some were tempted to go back to cotton. In common with many other men, I have tried to warn you of that danger. Cotton has not been high but has only increased in somewhat less proportion than food and feed.

NOW THE CRISIS IS HERE! This great Nation must arouse herself for a mighty struggle for liberty. People without food and armies without rations are conquered before they can begin to fight. Our greatest safety now lies in **FOOD PRODUCTION** and in saving the waste products.

If the South is to be **STRONG** she must have **FOOD**. If this country is to be **STRONG** she must be well fed and have an abundance to sustain those friendly people who are even now fighting our battles for liberty and democracy.

Transportation may be disturbed. Your own defense requires you to **PRODUCE** and **CONSERVE** your **FOOD** supply. **DON'T FAIL NOW!** It is a National problem of defense as important as men and guns, ships and cannon.

BUSINESS MEN, if seed is short canvass the situation like patriots and get the seed for farmers. Arrange the credits. Furnish farmers seed corn, soy beans, cowpeas, velvet beans, peanuts, sorghum, etc., at cost. See that all things necessary to help farmers are done. Of course, we must produce cotton, but with a moderate acreage and a good season there will be enough. Do not sacrifice acres of **FOOD** to increase your acreage in cotton. **LOOK AHEAD!** Get the warehouses, the feed mills, shellers, cleaning stations, creameries, packing plants, etc. ready. You must do your share and cooperate with farmers. They must do their share and tend the crops faithfully.

FARMERS, in your Unions, clubs and other organizations, resolve to **USE THE BEST METHODS** now. When the Nation faces a crisis we must have the best farming in its history. Labor is short, hence the best tools and all labor-saving devices must be used to make it possible for every farm laborer to cover as much ground as possible and do the most efficient work. Farm women and girls have important work to do in the garden, the orchard, in raising poultry, and especially in canning, preserving and conserving our food supply.

Your County Agent and Home Demonstration Agent become more important officers now than ever before. Your State Extension Division at the Agricultural College will have still more important duties. Look to these for counsel and advice in this new burden of extra work. The County Agent will, without doubt, have new duties and responsibilities in the near future.

FARMERS AND BUSINESS MEN, save the breeding stock. Don't sell cows, heifers, mares, sows, gilts, ewes or hens. Keep them for breeding. If the breeding stock is sold where will you get the means to supply the meat of this country?

LET US FORGET ALL PAST DIFFICULTIES AND JOIN IN A MIGHTY EFFORT TO FEED THE SOUTH. WHAT CAN YOU DO IN THE NEXT SIXTY DAYS?

Respectfully yours,

Bradford Knapp.

CHIEF.

